GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4109
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
India Statistical Strengthening Project
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu;Sivaprasad Dr. Naramalli

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been gross underutilization of funds in flagship schemes such as Indian Statistical Strengthening Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to identify and overcome the deficiencies in the existing system of budgetary planning and control?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA]
(a) to (c) The India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) is the first of its kind Scheme to be implemented by the States to strengthen their statistical system. Under the scheme, the States are required to prepare their State Plans based on their statistical needs. Although, the Scheme was launched in 2010, however, many States took long time in preparing their detailed Plans, with the result that till 2015-16, the funds could be released to only 16 States, which are currently participating in the scheme. Most states also faced teething problems in implementation, such as delay in administrative and financial approvals, delay in setting up of Expert Groups, lack of effective co-ordination with Line Departments, etc., as a result of which expenditure by the States was slow. Hence, further instalments could not be released to them. Because of the reasons stated above, by 2015-16, only about 35% of the Cumulative Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 647.38 crore could be released to the States.

Considering the slow progress in utilisation and slow implementation, a major review exercise of the Scheme was done in 2014-15. Based on the States' performance, the allocations to states were right-sized and they were facilitated to prepare Revised/modified State Plans to improve the implementation. As a result of this mid-course correction, though not much funds could be released in 2014-15, the Scheme was put on track. Presently the implementation is being more closely monitored through reviews, discussions and Progress Reports. As a result, in 2015-16, out of the Budget Estimate (BE) allocation of Rs. 50 crore for 2015-16, Rs 40 crore i.e. 80%, has been released.

*****